

Casualties of
War in Iraq
2544
as of July 12, 2006

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

VOL. XXIX No. 42

Week of July 13-19., 2006

www.leditor.com

Lubbock, Texas 79401

Neugebauer, other Texas Republican Congressmen Hold up Extension of Voting Rights Act

By Abel Cruz

If you are African American and were living in Texas in the 1920's and 30's say, and you wanted to attend a political party primary, you couldn't; it was a "white primary". And as the name implies, only whites could attend.

Prior to 1966, if you were one of the few Hispanics or blacks who exercised your right to vote, you had to pay a \$1.00 poll tax just to be able to exercise that right. Prior to 1972, if you spoke limited English and Spanish was your primary language, chances are that if you did make it to the voting booth, you had to deal with English only ballots and assistance in Spanish was not available; in case you had a question; which only led to people who didn't speak English not voting.

Fast forward to 2006, and chances are that if some Republicans in the Texas' Congressional Republican delegation, including Congressman Randy Neugebauer have their way, people who still rely on Spanish as their primary language and are more comfortable communicating in Spanish will find an atmosphere of "Español: No Mas".

It wasn't until President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act bill that ethnic minorities in Texas; Hispanics and blacks, were able to begin to participate in the political process as we know it today.

Prior to the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), some states, particularly those in the South, manufactured voting regulations and stipulations: making it impossible for all people of color, who were eligible, to be able to vote. Most notably in Texas was the requisite of paying a poll tax to be able to vote or the creation of "white primaries" in which people of

color were not allowed to participate; or the political gerrymandering of certain jurisdictions or boundaries, making it impossible for an ethnic minority candidate to have a chance at winning an election. Although the VRA did not outlaw poll taxes, it directed the Attorney General of the United States to challenge its use. Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the use of poll taxes as unconstitutional.

Since the VRA was first passed in 1965, the act has been extended by Congress 3 times; in 1970, 1975, and 1982. The extension of the act, which is set to expire in 2007, is what has some in Congress charging that some ultra-conservative Republicans are dead set on letting the act expire; or at the very least, changing at least two of the major components of the act.

The VRA has 2 very important elements to it which have a direct impact on Texas voters; Section 203 and Section 5. According to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S Department of Justice, Section 5 of the act, "freezes election practices or procedures in certain states until the new procedures have been subjected to review... this means that voting changes in covered jurisdictions may not be used until the review has been obtained".

According to the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, staunch defenders of the act, "Texas became covered because, as of November 1972: (1) over five percent of its voting-age citizens were Latinos; (2) its election materials were in English only; and (3) fewer than 50 percent of all of its voting-age citizens were registered to vote or turned out to vote".

"Since its enactment in 1965, the provisions of Section 5 have withstood extensive re-evaluation by Congress during the 1970, 1975 and 1982 reauthorizations. Each time Congress

has determined that based on continuing discrimination, the protections of Section 5 must be extended."

Section 203 of the act is better known as the "language trigger" section. It makes provisions for 4

language minority groups, identified by Congress, as having been discriminated against in the election process. The 4 groups include, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, and persons of



Spanish heritage. The common thread between these 4 distinct groups are that those of voting age and entitled to vote may have a need for ballots in a language other than English and for additional assistance in their native language. Voting jurisdictions, such as counties, states, and federal elections, must provide for translated "voting related materials" native language assistance, and provisions for publicizing these services.

Last month, the GOP controlled House was poised to vote on renewing the VRA; with the House Judiciary Committee having already approved the bill on a 33-1 vote. But during a House weekly GOP meeting, the scheduled vote was dropped; after complaints from Texas Republicans. At issue, are the 2 major components of the bill, Section 203 and Section 5. According to news reports, Republican's object to the requirement that the state must obtain a review before making changes which will affect the electoral process. An example would be the redistricting of a certain jurisdiction, such as the one which took place in 2003 in District 23 in South Texas, resulting in current Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio, protecting his seat in the 2004 election. Late last month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that particular redistricting action as being in violation of the Voting Rights

Act and remanded the case back to the Texas courts for redistricting.

Saying that he doesn't think "we have racial bias in Texas anymore", Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock echoed the sentiments of Rep. Bonilla who was quoted as saying that "it would be dumb to discriminate". But that is exactly what the U. S. Supreme Court recently ruled had happened in the Texas redistricting case involving Bonilla.

Rep. Carter added, "I simply believe that you should be able to read, write and speak English to be a voter in the United States".

Perhaps, but as long as this country is made up of diverse languages and cultures, people like Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, will make sure that people know that "those members who held up (the) vote represent retrogressive forces that America hasn't seen since the 1960's".

"Many of those trying to derail this bill represent states with the most egregious records of discrimination in voting," MALDEF charged. Providing bilingual ballots to Spanish-speaking and other non-English-speaking voters is "essential to permit all eligible voters to participate fully in the democratic process by casting informed and meaningful ballots," the group added.

The fact that the extension of the act was introduced by a partisan group and supported by the Bush administration, obviously made no difference to the House Republicans like Carter from Round Rock and Neugebauer from Lubbock; who themselves represent large constituencies made up of Hispanics and African Americans.

Perhaps they would do well to brush up on their Texas history, especially the part about "white primaries", ethnic minority literacy tests, and poll taxes.

There's a reason it took changes in the law to address the historical injustices imposed on ethnic groups and for ethnic minorities to have full participation and full access to the political process.

These are not the type of changes borne out of neither political fairness nor political acts of kindness.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

This week's "email voices" deal with the bombing in India and some responses to last week's questions of the week:

Question: The AP reported that "Seven bombs hit Bombay's commuter rail line during rush hour Tuesday, killing scores of people and injuring hundreds more in what authorities called a well-coordinated attack."

Do you think the U.S. will inevitably suffer these same kinds of attacks again; similar to what we saw on 9-11; or do you think that the Bush administration and Department of Homeland Security is doing enough to prevent these kinds of terrorist's attacks from happening in this country?

Response:

Anything but experience is pure speculation and to date, since the U.S. has drastically increased domestic security in the face of almost constant opposition from the Left, we have stopped any more major attacks on our home soil. The terrorists have gone to the easier targets during this time but that does not mean that they will not continue trying to hit us at here. We can stop dozens of attacks but they only have to get one right to accomplish their perverted goals. The odds favor the terrorists no matter how good our security is and that's what makes it terrorism - they don't need sustained accomplishments on a battlefield, just enough to cause fear and panic in a peaceful people.

Robert W. Pratt, Lubbock via Email

Question: On Tuesday, July 4, North Korea test fired 6 missiles in defiance of a missile firing moratorium. How should the U.S. respond?

Response:

It is my belief, that on the Missile testing by Korea, the United States should respond with diplomacy, with the help of the United Nations. North Korea does have Weapons of Mass destruction, talk about the EGG on our face!

But since North Korea has no gas/energy our Vice Presidents' company (or company's interest) cannot make money, the US Government is in no hurry to try and control the FLOW of what they cannot control. How more ridiculous must we continue to be made to look! Thank God President Bush isn't sending troops to North Korea as he sent so many to Iraq! To our Troops, we love and respect you, for you continue to serve, such as my family served in Viet Nam, another senseless war.

Ernestine Omega Cantu, Lubbock via Email

Question: Who do you think should be held responsible in the TASER death of Juan Manuel Nunez; the police officer, the city of Lubbock, or the TASER company?

Response:

After reading the report and hearing the news, being reported, it is my belief that the police knowing that Mr. Nunez had been drinking or that he was drunk, the Police should have not used the TASER more than once. With as many Police officers that responded to the call, they could have subdued Mr. Nunez, handcuffed him, and taken him in. (ALIVE). Therefore it is my opinion that the Police, the TASER Company as well as the City of Lubbock (we paid for their equipment), should be held responsible.

I know there will be some that believe Mr. Nunez should also be held responsible, but he was inebriated, he was not sober or making the full informed judgment calls that the Police were capable of making (he, the police person who used the TASER/or they that responded, were not inebriated). We, Lubbockites, should be aware of the protection police personnel provide and we thank them for that, but when the wrong call is made, we should not be afraid to speak up.

Ernestine Omega Cantu, Lubbock via Email

Response:

Why should any of those be held responsible for Nunez's death? Why shouldn't Juan Nunez himself accept some responsibility for his actions? This is just another example of people attempting to sue somebody because of a tragic incident brought on by their own behavior.

Patricia Smithee, Lubbock via Email

"Community Voices" would like to hear from you, the readers. You may remain anonymous, but El Editor reserves the right to edit all comments for offensive language, offensive or distasteful content, or personal attacks, and for space. Mail your comments to Community Voices, 1502 Ave M, Lubbock, 79401, or email your comments to acruzsc@aol.com

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The U.S. Stake in Mexico's Election

By Alex Meneses Miyashita

How is the continuing drama of Mexico's presidential election likely to affect its neighbor to the north? What outcome will serve the United States government and its people best?

A pair of individuals who have more than a passing interest in our relationship with Mexico - Dan Restrepo, senior policy advisor for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for American Progress and former U.S.

Ambassador to Mexico James Jones - shared their unique perspectives with me as the story was unfolding.

Election runner-up Andrés Manuel López Obrador is formally challenging the country's Federal Electoral Institute results through an electoral court, which has until Sept. 6 to issue a decision. The IFE declared July 6 Felipe Calderón, of the incumbent Partido Acción Nacional (National Action Party), winner by a narrow 35.89 percent of the vote against 35.31 percent for López Obrador, of the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (Party of the Democratic Revolution).

"We're in uncharted territory in that this has never happened and the institutions that Mexico has designed to deal with these problems have never been tested. They're about to experience their first real test," Restrepo predicted with precision.

Jones credited Mexico's electoral institutions with having performed well.

"As long as the electoral tribunal seriously considers the complaints that are made, whether it's from López Obrador or Calderón, I think in the final analysis their ruling will be accepted," he said.

Jones, who served as U.S. Ambassador from 1993 to 1997 under President Bill Clinton, said

that under Calderón, the free market economic policies favored by President Vicente Fox's administration would prevail. Calderón, Jones made it clear, would focus more on foreign policy than would left-leaning López Obrador.

Restrepo added, "He's clearly the

candidate of continuity and he ran that way. But it begs the question - continuity of what? The U.S.-Mexico relationship has had some very good moments in the last six years, but it has also had not so good moments."

The experts agreed that if López Obrador were to become Mexico's president, the country's relationship with the United States would be less predictable. They did not think, however, he would isolate the country from its northern neighbor because of his left-leaning views. Some of his adversaries have compared the PRD candidate with Venezuela President Hugo Chávez.

"López Obrador would not disrupt the U.S.-Mexico relationship because he recognizes how important it is to Mexico's economy," Jones said, emphasizing

nonetheless, "He would be much more independent of the U.S. than Calderón, and concentrate most of his efforts on domestic policy."

The personal profiles of the candidates as they relate to a relationship with the United States also differed widely. Calderón received a degree from Harvard. López Obrador, who attended the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, would be Mexico's first president in decades who did not speak English.

As many as two-thirds of the 44 million U.S. Hispanics trace their heritage to Mexico, and Mexican expatriates send billions of dollars in remittances to their families across the border annually, according to the Center for American Progress.

(Continued on page 6)

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

A collection and summary of news from around the U.S. and the World

Terrorists Strike in India

The death toll in Mumbai or as it is more commonly known in English, Bombay, India was nearing 200 on Wednesday. The Indian city of 17 million people was rocked on Tuesday when several bombs exploded in what was described as "rush hour train bombings".

According to some Middle East analysts, the bombings might have been an attempt to disrupt the peace process between India and Pakistan and to slow down India's economy which has been growing at a non stop pace.

Militant groups associated with Kashmir denied playing a role in the bombings. But Indian police still suspect that Islamic fundamentalists are to blame.

Israel: Battle on Two Fronts

On Wednesday, Israel troops were faced with a two front battle. One an ongoing attack on the Palestinians in Gaza and the other against Lebanese troops after the Lebanese troops had crossed over into Israel's northern border and waged an all out attack on Israeli soldiers; capturing two of them.

Israeli Prime Minister quickly blamed the militant group

Hezbollah and described the raid as an act of war.

The Los Angeles Times was reporting on the papers on line edition that "In seizing the soldiers, Hezbollah staged what Israeli military officials acknowledged was a highly sophisticated, multi-pronged attack, a hallmark of the guerrilla group's operations during its long fight against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah, which has since become a significant force in Lebanese politics, remains, in effect, the governing power in Lebanon's Shiite-dominated south.

New FEMA? Same Incompetence!

The Senate voted 87-11 Tuesday night to create a new federal entity to replace the much-criticized Federal Emergency Management Agency, reports The New York Times. The action came in an amendment to the domestic security budget bill. The new agency, the Emergency Management Authority, would remain in the Homeland Security Department but would report directly to the president during major disasters. Sens. Susan Collins and Joe Lieberman, who co-sponsored the legislation to change FEMA, said

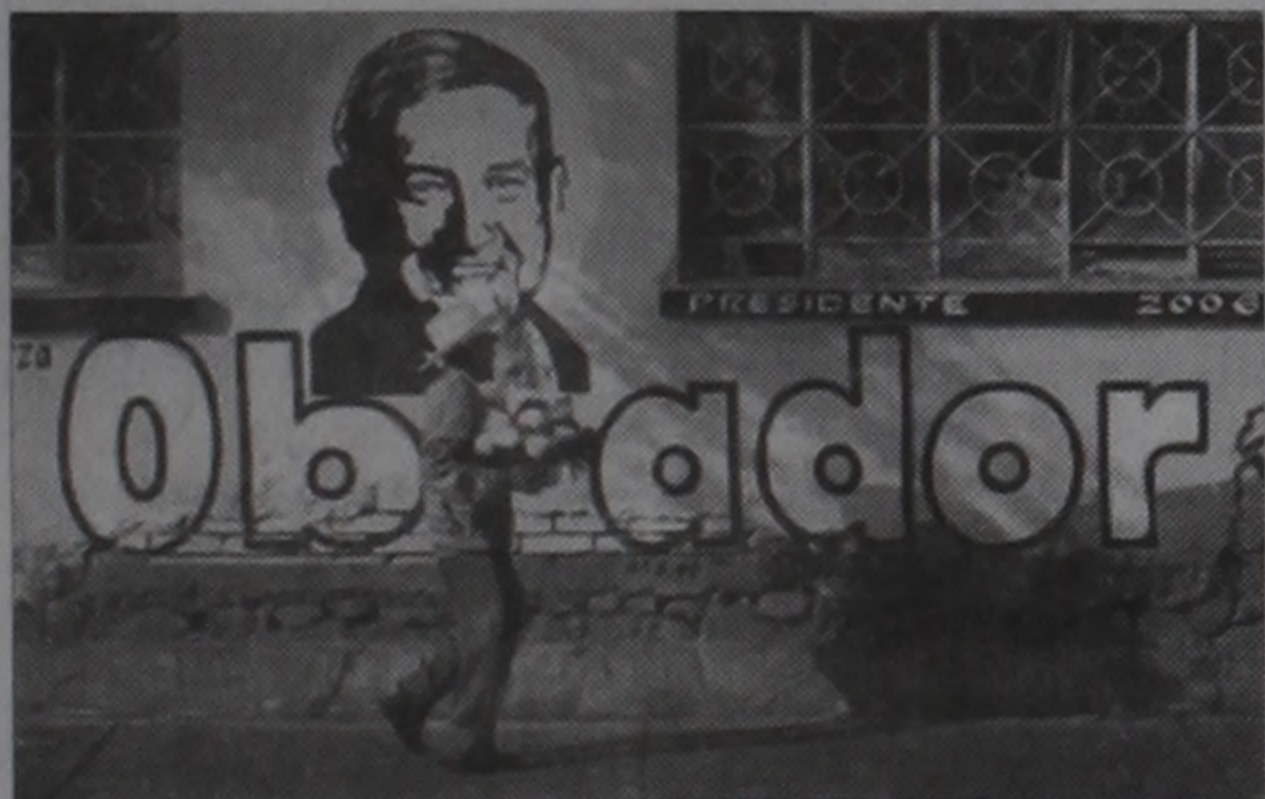
the agency's performance after Hurricane Katrina last year was such a national embarrassment that the federal government had no option but to abolish it and replace it with an agency that had new powers and a new name. But final passage of the bill by Congress is far from assured. The House is still considering legislation that would keep FEMA intact but return it to stand-alone status.

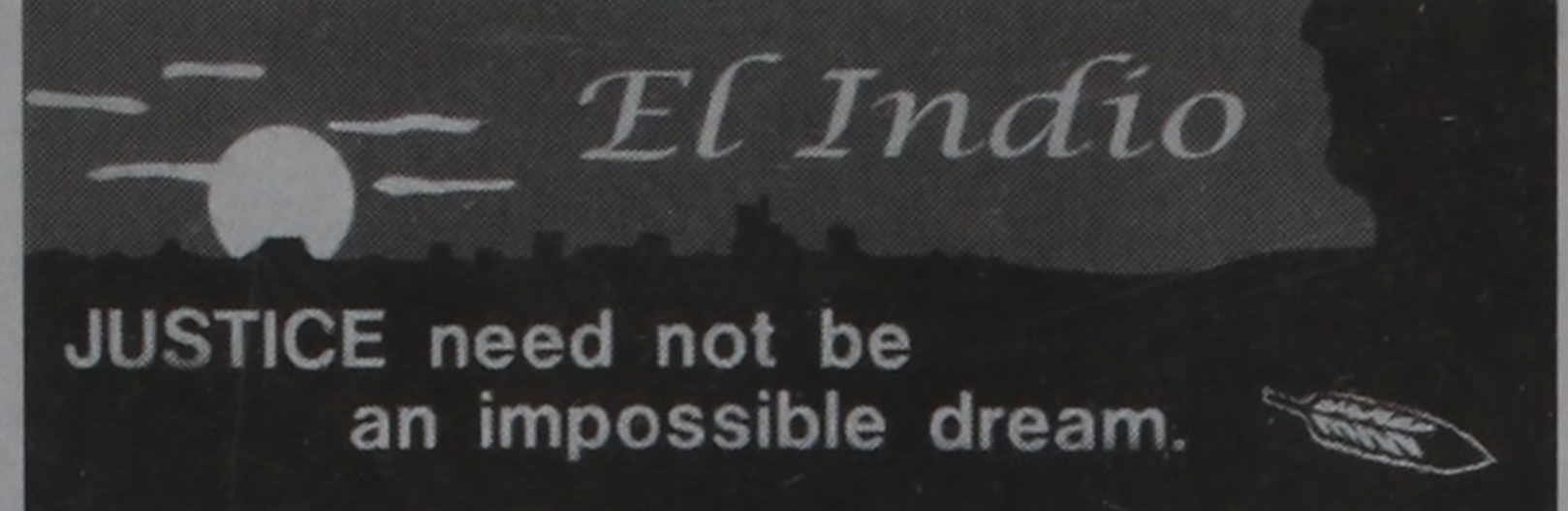
Source: The Center for Public Integrity

It Pays to Play

"Consider what happened in the wake of Mad Cow scares, when Congress passed a law mandating country-of-origin labeling of meat. When it came time to implement the law, Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-Texas) used his chairmanship of the agriculture appropriations subcommittee to insert language into a spending bill to postpone the law indefinitely. He was rewarded for his efforts by tens of thousands of dollars of campaign cash from the food processing industry. Especially grateful was Tyson Foods, which in 2004 gave Bonilla its private jet so that he could fly to fundraisers all over the country."

(Continued on page 6)





"Super Precincts" Are a "Super Shaft" for the Chicano Community and North Lubbock.....A Call to Action!
 By Roger Quannah Settler El Indio

I remember words from Jerry Reed's country song, "She got the gold mine...and I got the shaft!" This is the perfect description of what happened at the Lubbock County Commissioners' Court on Monday...Sí, the same old Corazón...once again, Southwest Lubbock got the gold mine, and the Barrio got the shaft...and our "representatives" were SILENT...as usual.

It is amazing how much damage has been caused during the years of the Bush administration and Tom DeLay, and during the corrupt reign of Tom Craddick as Texas House Speaker.

After saddling Texas with tuition increases and countless new fines and fees, the Leg has come up with yet another proposal to dilute minority representation...this time, it's called "Super Precincts".

Coming on the heels of the new electronic voting machines, the "Super Precincts" represent a slam dunk in the campaign to undermine the integrity of our votes...electronic voting without "paper trails" was a kick in the stomach, and the "Super Precincts" are a knockout punch.

In the 1940s, 1950s, 1060s and 1970s, Texas perfected a voting system which had numerous and effective checks and balances...limitations on governmental power and potential electoral corruption which was rivaled by no other state. After the embarrassment of the 1947 election which was probably stolen by Senator and later President Lyndon Johnson, the Legislature, the courts and the political parties went to work to fix the system. By the 1970s, the system had been honed and refined...this writer worked with then Secretary of State Bob Bullock and Senator Ralph Yarborough, who had pioneered many reforms and safeguards which worked superbly well.

The PAPER BALLOTS of the day were counted at the precinct level by workers hired by the individual PRECINCT CHAIRS, which represented the neighborhoods and the political parties. The ballots were numbered, and STUBS bearing identical numbers were torn off by the voters and placed in sealed boxes which could only be opened by court order. This way, the ballots could be checked against the turnout of voters as shown on the SIGNATURE ROSTERS, signed by voters on Election Day, after their names had been checked against a paper electoral roll. After the election, the rosters were checked by precinct chairmen in a CANVASS, and irregularities were ferreted out by the neighborhood representatives. Of course, the paper ballots could be verified by a RECOUNT...and the stubs could be checked against the voted ballots. The precinct chairs came to know the neighborhood voters, and could easily spot election fraud.

This system was DECENTRALIZED, and prevented electoral fraud on the part of individual voters, political parties, and election authorities. This decentralization was rooted in the old adage that "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Unfortunately, the age of COMPUTERIZATION soon eroded this almost foolproof system. As computers became more and more universal, the old safeguards and checks and balances were abandoned...paper ballots gave way to the infamous "hanging chad" PUNCHCARD ballots, which were easily altered. Many jurisdictions went to OPTICAL SCAN ballots, which preserved some of the safeguards of the old system. However, canvasses were soon undermined by computerized sheets, which replaced the scrutiny of the precinct chairs. The canvasses ceased to be true canvasses...and computer results were often presented as infallible...which of course, we all know they are not.

Then, ELECTRONIC voting machines became fashionable. After the 2000 Presidential Election fiasco, the Tom DeLay-dominated Congress used the fiasco to promote the new electronic machines...without "paper trails" [printed copies of the electronic ballot printed out to allow verification]. The new Lubbock County Election Administrator, Dorothy Kennedy, fell in love with the new machines, and pushed them through the Commissioners' Court. Although five vendors were allowed to bid, the Lubbock County committee chose the Hart Graphics system which does not have a "paper trail"...and is difficult to retrofit to paper should it be required.

Many citizens spoke out on the issue of paper trails...during County-sponsored hearings, the public opinion was almost unanimous in opposition to machines without paper trails. Several officials, most notably GOP Chair Robert Pratt, vigorously supported paper trails...and then proceeded to vote for the new system without them. It seems that modern government has developed an aversion to anything but unanimous votes...our "representatives" talk one way, but then vote with the unanimous majority when the time comes...not exactly the "representation" which voters might expect!

Earlier this year, the "Super Precincts" idea was floated by Dorothy Kennedy...and once again, the "unanimous fever" caught on...political party leaders, who should know better, suddenly forgot the the PRECINCT CHAIRS are the base of our political parties...the new precincts are designed to effectively ABOLISH this time-honored system. This proposal is nothing more than a cynically disguised DILUTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS masquerading as "convenience" and "progress".

Once again, our "representatives" were SILENT about this proposal...LINDA DELEON, FLOYD PRICE, MARIO YBARRA and VERNITA WOODS-HOLMES were silent as usual...we have come to expect this...but this writer thought that our new vigorous Commissioner YSIDRO GUITERREZ would speak out. I sincerely hope that YSIDRO voted against the proposal on Monday...I don't know yet.

But a careful examination of the new "Super Precincts" reveals the ugly face of subtle racism once again...I have asked Bidal to print the list of old "minority" voting precincts, and a list of the new proposed ones...right away, the pattern is evident. Before Monday, we had 16 "minority" voting precincts historically recognized as such...and four more with significant minority populations. Under the new system, only five locations effectively replace the old sixteen locations.

The "powers that be" might consider the Catholic Diocese at 4620 4th to be a "minority" precinct, but it has never been a traditional voting place, and is not located in minority neighborhoods. The two "minority" United Supermarkets on North University and Parkway do not allow campaigning or campaign signs, a barrier to minority candidates. Mae Simmons replaces Ella Iles, which is OK for the black community...but what does the Barrio get? Arnett and two Uniteds? Why not Wolfarth...or McWhorter...or Jackson...or Cavazos...or Guadalupe...or Ramirez...or Lubbock High...or Dupre?

My home neighborhood, Overton, does not have a designated polling place, a considerable barrier to its large elderly and minority population. This fact was noted by the Democratic Party...Dr. Neale Pearson, the party secretary, requested a 36th polling place to be located in Overton...a reasonable request. The Commissioners arrogantly rejected the request. Incredibly enough, both political parties supported the "Super Precincts" anyway...part of this "unanimous fever" which is eroding our democratic traditions.

No one has thought through this travesty... "Super Precincts" will undermine neighborhood representation, political party viability, and established minority voting patterns. If implemented in Lubbock County and Collin County...the two "guinea pigs" of this experiment...a push shall be made to make it statewide. "Convenience" and "increased voter turnout" are the words being used to describe this flawed system...but in the end, we shall have given up one of the last safeguards we have...neighborhood oversight of the election process. The Election Administrator's office will have almost total power over the electoral process, without any independent verification or cross-checking...fine if the Administrator's staff is honest, but disastrous if they are not. Now the precinct chairs have often been replaced by minimum wage workers whose only loyalty is to the Elections Office...or the corporation who supplies the "temporaries". Eight electronic machines...or more...have already been purchased for each one of the old 100 or so precincts...wonder what they are going to do with all the extra unused machines?

The Founding Fathers did their best to try to prevent the centralization of power like this...and nowadays we are throwing away our freedoms with both hands.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those who sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither liberty nor security."

A call to action...we must not allow this latest assault on our community to go unanswered! In the old days, we filed lawsuits against discriminatory election practices...El Editor Bidal Aguero was a successful plaintiff in a single-member district suit, and I personally worked in many redistricting battles. Now the community is asleep...where is the outrage? Yes, the Supreme Court gave us a partial victory in the Congressional District battle...but only PARTIAL. We let the electronic machines come in without a protest, and now we can't be sure if our votes are being counted correctly at all. If we allow our neighborhood representation to be destroyed in the name of "convenience", we have only ourselves to blame! ¡Sí, Se Puede!

On the Internet -www. eleditor.com
Lightning of Hope in Mexico's Election

By José de la Isla

Have you seen the Lightning of Hope? I mean the masked man in shimmering yellow wrestler tights and flowing cape, who looks like he can fly?

He was out there in front of the IFE, Mexico's Federal Elections Institute, spearheading a demonstration, exhorting, "Queremos que el conteo siga siguiendo." We want the count to go on continuing, shouted the popular caped crusader.

Following the July 2 presidential election, he was part of a preemptive demonstration by about 200 protesters demanding a total recount of some 130,000 voting places before a district-by-district tally was completed.

Relámpago and cohorts represent a constituency commentators refer to as populist, and sometimes as leftist. They are also referred to as the "marginalized." Many come from slum districts.

They are for Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, or PRD by its Spanish initials. López Obrador mobilized them when he was Mexico City's mayor, and again as presidential candidate.

Ladies in aprons, who look like somebody's grandmother, students in red Che T-shirts, and burly middle-aged guys all wave the yellow PRD flag. They seem like the people at the market, vendors with mobile stands, the so-called commoners, the ones referred to as looking like the color of the earth.

For them, election concerns arose when the official fast-count returns were inconclusive on election night, but slightly favored Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party, or PAN. Calderón led the district-by-district count as July 6 dawned by 243,934 votes, or 0.57 percent, over López Obrador.

The PRD is expected this week to present challenges in 45 out of the 300 districts. The seven-member Federal Electoral Tribunal has until Sept. 6 to hear the results and other allegations, order any recounts, and declare a final winner.

Election fraude and malfeasance has been a deep-held suspicion since the 1988 presidential election. That one led to major reforms, the eventual end of the 71-year, one-party Institutional Revolutionary Party rule, and Vicente Fox's election in 2000.

Yet, this election shows several important glaring gaps that will need

Repatriation and Interment Camps; a Thing of the Past?

By Abel Cruz

According to the PEW Hispanic center, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization, "Latinos are feeling more discriminated against, politically energized and unified following the immigration policy debate and the pro-immigration marches this spring".

At least that was the conclusion reached by the nonprofit after conducting a National Survey of Latinos; which was just released Thursday, July 13.

Some of the major findings of the report:

- More than half of Latinos say they are seeing an increase in discrimination towards them and other Latinos
- About 75% of those surveyed say the debate will prompt more Hispanics to vote in November's general elections
- Almost two thirds, or 63%, think the pro-immigrant marches held earlier this year signal the beginning of a "new and lasting" social movement.
- A majority, 58%, believes Hispanics are working together to achieve common goals; up from 43% in 2002

Not surprisingly, "the survey shows that Latinos to some extent are holding the Republican Party responsible for what they perceive to be the negative consequences of the immigration debate" and "the share of Latinos who believe the Republican Party has the best position on immigration has dropped from 25% to 16%."

My guess is that this same survey was conducted in this area, most people would agree with the first two findings I cited above but not with the last 2.

The first finding, increased discrimination is a given considering all the things that people hear on talk radio and read in the mainstream media about Hispanics, "illegal aliens", Mexicans; or take your pick of any label you wish; you've heard them all these days.

One of the lasting effects with continually being the target of discrimination is that sooner or later, a person either does something about it or becomes accustomed to it and it becomes a part of their everyday life. When it becomes a part of our life, it creates sort of a shield of indifference and ultimately affects how we view these types of issues and how we react to the discrimination itself. Sometimes, instead of being motivated to do something about it, apathy sets in and sooner rather than later people begin to feel that no matter what they do, things just won't change. We slowly become victims to a sort of "institutional racism".

One thing is for sure though; the immigration debate has made it tougher to live in parts of this country if you are Hispanic even if you were born here. Think about it. How many people, other than Hispanics or other ethnic minorities, are fearful that one day soon they may have to make sure they carry proof of citizenship or their birth certificate with them just so we can prove that we belong here? In some parts of the country, in El Paso, TX for example, there have already been reports of this kind of thing happening.

Consider the hypothetical case of an interracial married couple; a white man and a Hispanic woman for example. Say one day they are driving to their favorite Lubbock restaurant, they are stopped for whatever reason, say a traffic violation, and before they are let go the woman is asked to prove she is in this country legally just because she looks Hispanic. Sounds silly huh; like it couldn't happen here? It may sound like it couldn't happen to those who have never experienced the indignations and humiliation of racial discrimination, but to those of us who have, it doesn't sound unrealistic at all.

And there is precedence for this kind of behavior. Remember the Japanese during WWII? Back then all you had to do was look Japanese and you were immediately rounded up like cattle and shipped off to the Japanese Interment Camps. The roundups resulted in over 120,000 Japanese, about two thirds which were American citizens, ending up in these camps. It did not matter that you were a Japanese American.

Ah you say, but we were at war with Japan. That's correct, but isn't that what Republican politicians like James Sensenbrenner and Tom Tancredo and our very own Randy Neugebauer tell us; that we are engaged in a war on terrorism and that "protecting our borders at all costs" (they mean southern border by the way, not the northern one) is part of the battle plan: at all costs.

Using much the same argument the Bush administration has used since 9-11 to justify their questionable tactics to do whatever they well please, couldn't it be just a matter of time before history repeats itself?

And what of the Mexican Repatriation movement in the 1930's? After 1929, between 400,000 and 500,000 Mexicans, Mexican Americans who were born here and American born children to Mexican parents were also rounded up and sent back to Mexico.

These two historical events occurred because both were fueled by anti-Japanese and anti-Mexican sentiment by the mainstream population and political parties that felt that Japanese and Mexican laborers were taking away their jobs, hurting their economy, and were a threat to their way of life. Sound familiar? Where have you heard that same song and dance before?

The November elections will definitely have an "immigration bashing" stench to them, and I'm sure that most areas of the country, especially in states like Texas, Arizona, and California will see an increased voter turnout; from both sides of the issue. But to what degree is anybody's guess.

For some reason, Hispanic voters have yet to realize the power that they possess in the voting booth and tend to stay away in large numbers on voting day. What might make a difference this year is that Hispanics seem to have been paying more attention to things like HR 4437 and comments being directed at "illegal aliens" and whether some like to admit it or not; by extension to them.

If a caller to a local radio program says something to the effect that what all "illegals" want is a free lunch and ride, and that "all Mexicans are the same"; is that supposed to stir a warm and patriotic feeling in me if I happen to be Hispanic?

In the very least I have to ask myself this question: "Am I being painted with the same broad brush?"

But whether comments and hate rhetoric like that will be enough to get people off their couch and into the voting booth is the \$64,000 question.

Um, make that the million dollar question; this is after all, 2006. Isn't it?

Email: acruzts@aol.com

En la Eleccion Mexicana - Relampago de Esperanza

José de la Isla

¿Ha visto al Relámpago de la Esperanza? Digo, ¿el hombre enmascarado, de mayas amarillo brillante y capa flameante, que parece poder volar?

Allí estaba, frente al Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE) de México, a la cabeza de una manifestación, gritando, "Queremos que el conteo siga siguiendo".

Después de los comicios presidenciales del 2 de julio, formaba parte de una manifestación por anticipado de unas 200 personas que exigían un segundo conteo total de unas 130,000 casillas antes que se computara el resultado final.

Relámpago y sus congéneres representan un grupo de comentaristas conocido como populista, y a veces como izquierdista, además de "marginalizado". Muchos provienen de los distritos más pobres.

Apoyan a Andrés Manuel López Obrador del Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD, quien los movilizara como alcalde de la Ciudad de México, y de nuevo como candidato a la presidencia del país.

Señoras de mandil, que parecen ser la abuela de alguien, estudiantes de camisetas rojas con el Che, hombres corpulentos ya mayores agitan la bandera amarilla del PRD. Se parecen a la gente del mercado, vendedores de carretas, los comeneros, a los que se refiere como del color de la tierra.

Para estas personas, la inquietud sobre las elecciones surgió cuando los resultados oficiales de conteo rápido fueron inconclusos la noche del voto, pero que en algo favorecía a Felipe Calderón del Partido Acción Nacional, PAN. Calderón llevaba la delantera del conteo por casilla en lo que abrió el 6 de julio, con 243,934 votos, o el 0,57 por ciento, más que López Obrador.

Se anticipa que el PRD presente quejas en 45 de las 300 casillas esta semana. El Tribunal Federal de Elecciones, de siete miembros, tiene hasta el 6 de septiembre para oír los resultados y otras alegaciones, ordenar conteos, y declarar un candidato victorioso. La sospecha profunda de fraude y delito ha existido desde los comicios presidenciales de 1988, el cual llevó a importantes reformas, y al final del régimen unipartidario de 71 años del Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI, y a la elección de Vicente Fox en el 2000.

No obstante, esta elección indica que hay varias brechas obvias e importantes a las que atender y remediar, quien llegue a ser

EL EDITOR

is a weekly bilingual newspaper published by Amigo Publications in Lubbock and Midland/Odessa Texas. El Editor has been published on a weekly basis since 1977. Our physical address for overnight delivery is 1502 Ave. M in Lubbock, TX 79401. El Editor is available on the internet at <http://www.editor.com> and is distributed throughout West Texas in retail outlets. Opinions expressed in El Editor are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the publisher or the advertisers. Advertising information available by emailing us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net or by calling us at 806-763-3841 Opinions and commentaries are welcome and can be sent to the same email address. All opinions and letters to the editor must contain the writer's name, address and phone number but name can be withheld at the writer's request. Address and telephone number will not be published.

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Supreme Court Allows States to Redraw Election Boundaries

In 1812, Jeffersonian Republicans forced through the Massachusetts legislature a bill rearranging district lines to assure them an advantage in the upcoming senatorial elections. After Governor Elbridge Gerry signed the law, a Federalist editor is said to have exclaimed upon seeing the new district lines, "Salamander! Call it a Gerry-mander."

This cartoon-map first appeared in the Boston Gazette on March 26, 1812. (Library of Congress Photo)

Washington — A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling allows state lawmakers to rearrange boundaries of their voting districts but whether they will do so in the near future is unclear, experts tell the Washington File in a series of interviews.

A voting district is a geographic area represented by an individual member of the U.S. House of Representatives. How the boundaries for those areas are drawn can affect significantly the outcome of both local and national elections.

When the U.S. Supreme Court's June 28 ruling left Texas' 2003 congressional redistricting plan essentially intact, it opened the door for other states

to redraw district lines before the 2006 midterm elections, according to Bernard Grofman, political science professor at the University of California, Irvine.

"But they won't," said Chuck Todd, contributing editor to the National Journal, a weekly magazine on politics and government. The Supreme Court's decision comes too late to affect the 2006 midterm elections in Texas, Todd said. "It would take someone with a politically charged vendetta to redraw a district" just because the Supreme Court said it was okay to do so mid-census, he added.

The Supreme Court said one of the Texas districts in question violated the rights of Hispanics under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and will need to be redrawn, said Paul S. Herrmson, director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, College Park. In his view, this will have a ripple effect on surrounding districts. But Herrmson said the Supreme Court found that the mid-census Texas redistricting plan, which opponents said was oddly shaped to protect Republican seats, was not unconstitutional.

The U.S. Constitution requires



that states apply the results of the every 10-year census conducted by the federal government and redraw as necessary any congressional districts so that they comprise a roughly equal number of residents. Each state is represented by two senators, but the number of representatives each state sends to the U.S. House of Representatives depends on the state's population.

There are 435 seats in the House of Representatives, but Congress can increase that number if necessary. Each state gets at least one representative. (See related article.)

After the 2000 census, the average population per district was 646,952. (See related article.)

What the Supreme Court is telling states now, Grofman

said, is that states must address their population numbers at least every 10 years and can do so more frequently if state lawmakers feel they need to.

Redrawing becomes a political issue when "gerrymandering" occurs. It happens, Todd said, when a particular group of voters — either political party members or members of specific religious or ethnic groups — is "packed" into one oddly shaped district. This has the effect of concentrating the group's power behind a particular candidate or political party but also diluting the electoral strength of that group in other parts of the state. The term "gerrymandering" was coined after Elbridge Gerry, a Massachusetts governor, and the "salamander" shape of the district he created in 1812.

State legislatures are required to work with governors to redraw congressional districts appropriately; where they cannot agree, the courts tell states what to do. That is what happened in Texas, Grofman said. After the 2000 census, the state legislature and the governor could not agree on a plan, so a Texas court drew the redistricting map. Then, Texas lawmakers came up with a plan they liked better and put it

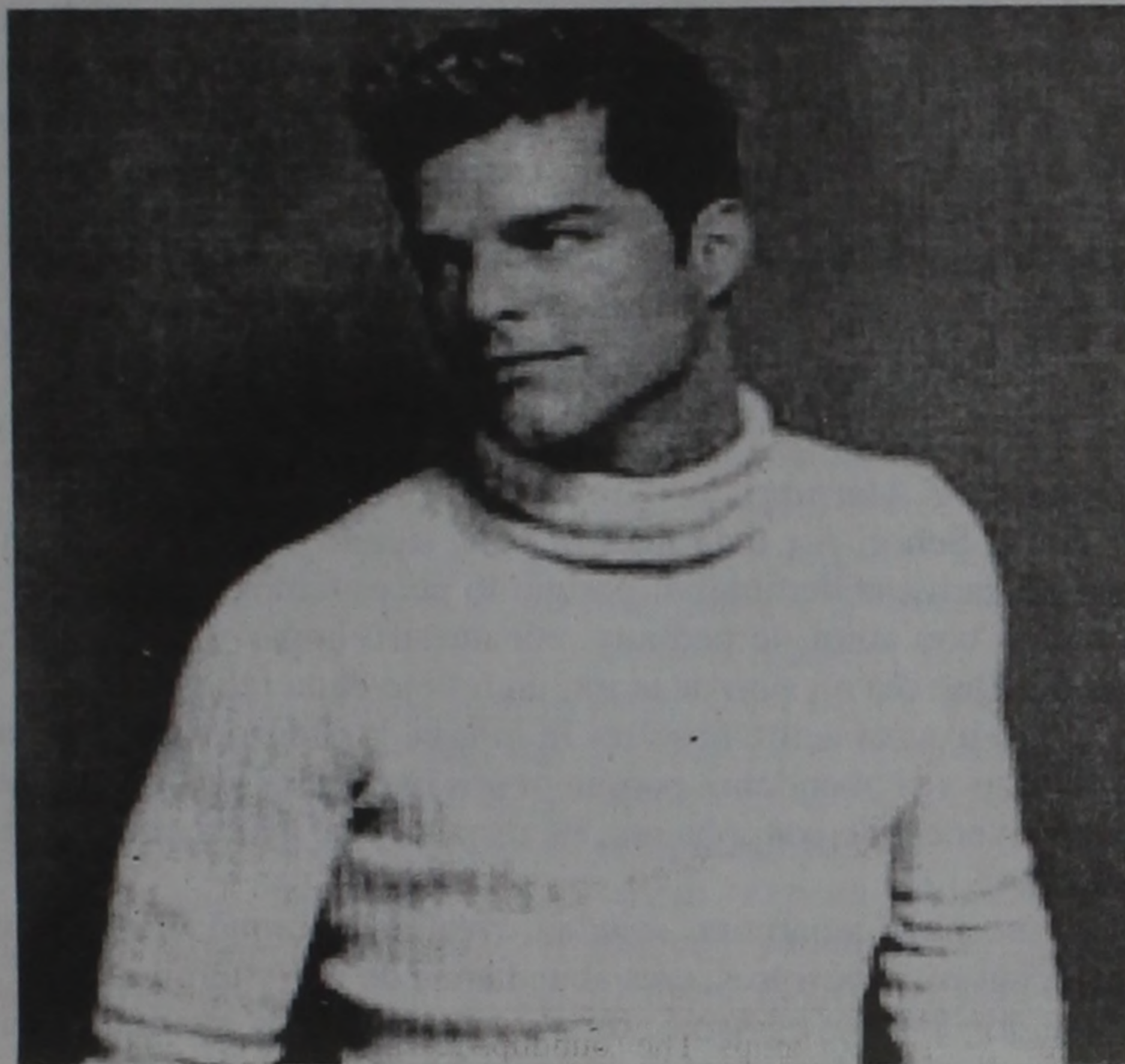
into place. Opponents of the plan said it diluted the voting strength of Hispanics in three districts.

Pennsylvania and Michigan, analysts say, likely are the only states in which political control of the state legislature might change after the 2006 elections and thus the only states in which gerrymandering might occur for the 2008 election. Currently, those legislatures have Republican majorities; a switch to Democratic control could prompt a redrawing of congressional districts in preparation for the 2008 election, Todd said.

According to Todd, the impact of gerrymandering is overrated. "The fact is, if you really looked at the map nationally, the country is divided up pretty evenly by congressional districts if you overlaid how these districts voted during the [2004] presidential election," he said.

Democracies with a single nationwide voting district, such as in the Netherlands and Israel, are not susceptible to gerrymandering. Countries that require non-partisan organizations to draw district lines, including the United Kingdom and Canada, avoid the potential for gerrymandering.

Ricky Martin to record Unplugged with MTV Latin America



MTV Networks announced that Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin will record his MTV Unplugged next August here in Miami. The final product is to be released next November.

The Florida-based company stated that Martin will present his latest songs during the show, as well as his greatest hits. All of it will be on an "intimate stage, acoustic, and live," and he will have the chance to sing in several languages.

It added that this will be the nineteenth Unplugged by MTV Latin America, and the first one co-produced by MTV Tr3s, which is dedicated to Hispanics living in the US.

"The artist will be accompanied by important musicians to be announced soon," the company added.

Jose Tillan, Music and Talent vice-president, stated that the show will be broadcast over 100 MTV channels worldwide, and other networks.

Sony-BMG, Ricky Martin's record company, said that the CD-DVD will be launched worldwide on November 2006.

According to the company, Ricky Martin has sold some 50 million records, thanks to hits like "Livin' la vida loca," "Maria," and "The Cup of Life."

MTV Latin America has produced Unplugged shows for Grammy winners like Mana, Alejandro Sanz, and Shakira.

Alicia Villarreal releases second single, El Rollito



Singer Alicia Villarreal released the second single, "El Rollito", from her album "Orgullo de mujer". The single is already played by radio stations. She will also perform at the upcoming Juventud Awards next July 13.

The Monterrey lady will share the stage with Kumbia Kings, the reggaeton singers Don Omar and Ivy Queen, Alejandra Guzman, Thalia, and Mana during the gala night which will be the ceremony's inaugural broadcast in Spanish.

With the express intent of giving US-Hispanic youth the opportunity to honor its music, film, sports, fashion and pop culture icons, the event will be broadcast by the Univision network.

"El Rollito", second release from Villarreal's latest album, is a song about a broken heart and tells the story of a woman who feels tired of the little love she is given, so she decides to make a change.

"Orgullo de mujer" is produced by Joan Sebastian, author of nine of the ten compositions comprising the album, a work rich in romanticism, warmth, and love.

There is much here that appeals to the singer's proud Mexican heritage and ranchero music. Alicia Villarreal returns to the stages after the big success of "Insensible a ti", an album overflowing with all the passion, love and hatred that a woman is capable of feeling.

El Problema de la Salud Hispana: La Salud Mental

Adriane Daniels
Los expertos en salud nacional han identificado la seria necesidad de una mayor competencia cultural a la hora de tratar asuntos de salud mental relacionados con la comunidad hispana.

El tema ganó importancia en una conferencia que la organización National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI por sus siglas en inglés) organizó en Washington, D.C. entre el 28 y el 30 de junio. Hubo discrepancias entre los participantes en cuanto a la identificación y el tratamiento de los hispanos y la necesidad de aumentar los niveles de "asistencia médica de calidad", incluyendo mejores servicios de varios idiomas y más servicios de transporte.

Director ejecutivo de NAMI, Michael Fitzpatrick, contó a Hispanic Link News Service que la enfermedad mental es aislada y estigmatizada con demasiada facilidad y es necesario incluirla en un tipo de asistencia médica más amplia.

Según el centro de acercamiento multicultural e internacional de NAMI, los hispanos, y sobre todo las mujeres, son propensos a sufrir índices de depresión y ansiedad desproporcionados. NAMI informó que la salud mental suele ser más frecuente en los latinos nacidos en los EE.UU. que entre inmigrantes que llevan poco tiempo en el país, mientras que los adolescentes hispanos figuran entre los que más suelen intentar suicidarse. Los centros de control de enfermedades informaron que en el 2005 un 11% de latinos y un 15% de latinas en los tres últimos años de enseñanza secundaria dijeron que intentaron suicidarse.

Los expertos en el campo coinciden en que no hay suficientes médicos que logren cubrir las necesidades de los latinos y que hay prácticas culturales y factores de inmigración que conducen a la depresión y otras enfermedades mentales.

Se necesitan profesionales de la salud mental bilingües y biculturales más calificados que respondan a las exigencias de los latinos, contó Henry Acosta, subdirector del Instituto de Salud

Mental de Nueva Jersey, a Hispanic Link. Dijo que sólo un 3% de los psicólogos y un 7% de los asistentes sociales son hispanos, y añadió que, a menudo, hay barreras lingüísticas y culturales entre el paciente y el asistente médico.

Según el doctor Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Salud Mental, los latinos tienden a infrutilizar los servicios disponibles, y con gran frecuencia, no saben que necesitan tratamiento. Dijo que un 54% de los que mostraban síntomas de depresión grave no sabían que sufrían la enfermedad, y que esta falta de conocimiento hace que problema sea mayor, pues no saben dónde o cómo obtener asistencia médica.

El doctor Aguilar-Gaxiola continúa en la página 5



Residents from Lubbock were among the delegation of people who attended a recent visit by Governor Bill Richardson to Clovis, New Mexico. Visiting with Richardson to announce plans to build an ethanol plant in Clovis were Lubbock residents John P. Cervantez. In picture left to right are Joe Mendoza, Gov. Bill Richardson, John P. Cervantez, Essie mendoza and Sam P. Cervantez.

photo by Sam P. Cervantez

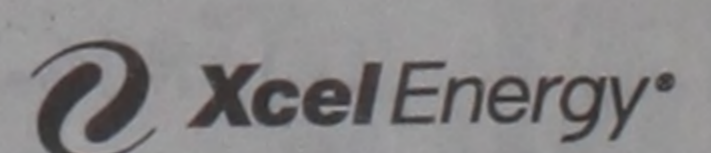


"¿QUIERE ESTAR FUERA DE PELIGRO CUANDO ESTA CERCA DE CABLES ELECTRICOS QUE PASAN POR ENCIMA DE USTED? ENTONCES, MANTENGASE LEJOS."

"Los cables que pasan por encima de la casa son peligrosos. Herramientas, escaleras, cañas de pescar, una cometa - cualquier objeto que haga contacto con un cable eléctrico puede ser fatal. Permanezca alejado, al menos 10 pies de distancia, de los cables eléctricos que están alrededor de su casa y de su patio o jardín. Y si sus niños quieren trepar un árbol, asegúrese de que no haya cables alrededor. Los vientos fuertes o una tormenta pueden igualmente derribar los cables. Así que si usted ve un cable caído, comuníquese inmediatamente con nuestra Línea de Emergencia al 1-800-895-1999. En caso de incendio o que alguien esté herido, llame al 911. Recuerde: Manténgase alejado. Manténgase con vida."

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Felipe Calderón reclama triunfo en urnas mexicanas

Al tiempo que el candidato presidencial perredista Andrés Manuel López Obrador exhibía más videos sobre presuntas irregularidades en su perjuicio durante la reciente contienda electoral, su adversario panista Felipe Calderón replicaba que "las elecciones se ganan con votos y no con movilizaciones".

"Ganamos las elecciones en las urnas, con la participación de millones y millones de mexicanos de manera pacífica", aseveró el contendiente del Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), para enfatizar en seguida que "las elecciones se ganan con votos y no con movilizaciones".

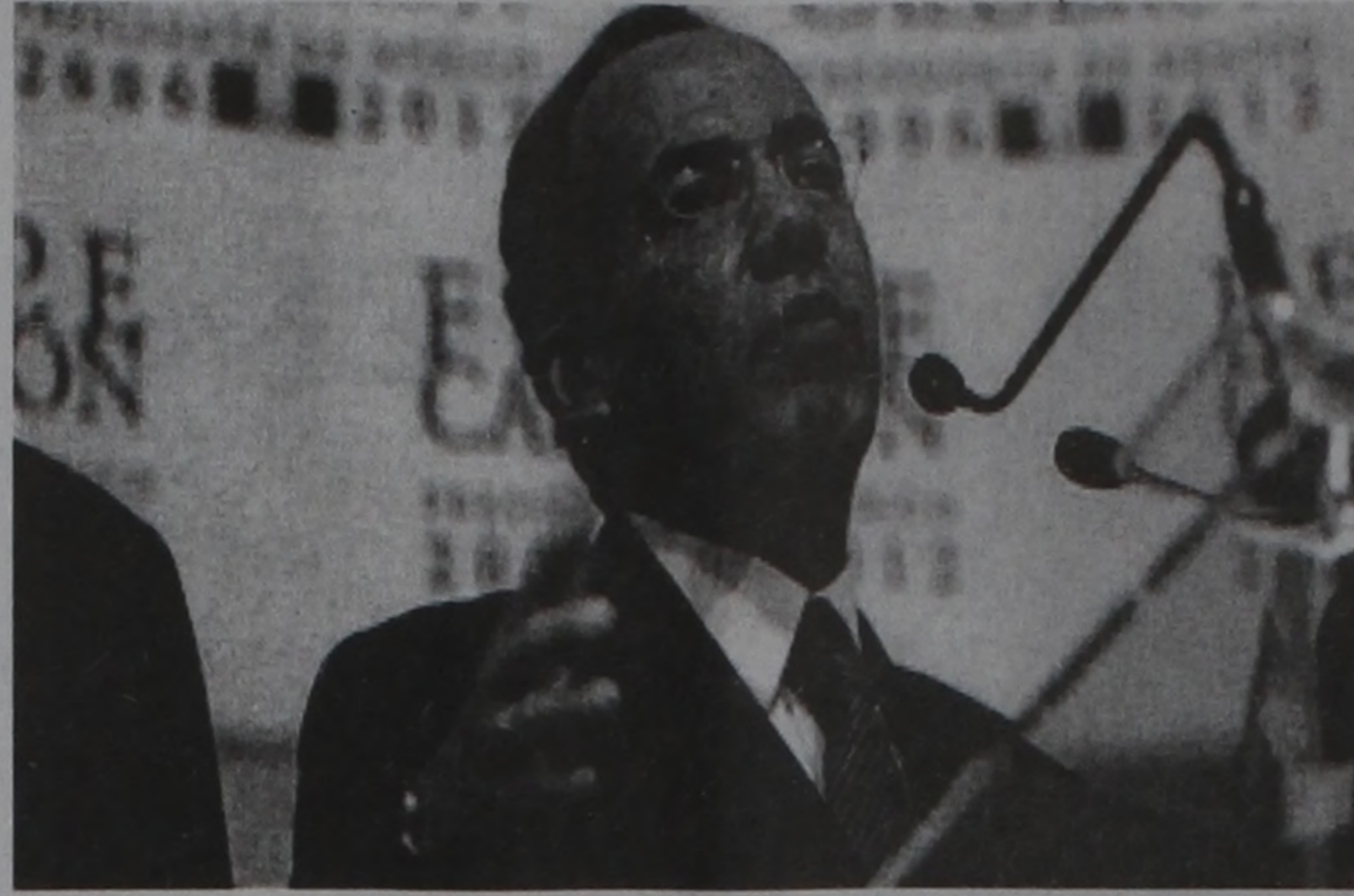
Tras de aludir en este tono evidentemente a su contrincante del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), sostuvo en conferencia de prensa que "la verdad nos asiste y el tribunal (Tribunal Federal Electoral) lo habrá de confirmar", anticipando que se propone ser "un presidente que gobierne al lado de una sociedad activa y participativa".

Por tanto, Calderón Hinojosa

convocó a sus seguidores a "mantener la calma y a fortalecer las instituciones", así como a "evitar cualquier tipo de provocación", de tal manera que los invitó a "organizarse cívicamente en sus barrios, en sus ranchos, en sus colonias, ciudades y pueblos".

Asimismo, el virtual ganador de las votaciones hizo un llamado a "todos los actores políticos, por lo que resta de este proceso (electoral), a conducirse con estricto apego a nuestras leyes e instituciones", y en referencia a las expresiones del perredista consideró que éstas son "lamentables" ya que "la ofensa le resta credibilidad".

Simultáneamente, el panista dio a conocer dos nombramientos para los trabajos de transición, no obstante que no ha sido oficialmente proclamado triunfador. La coordinación de tal operación estará encabezada por Juan Camilo Mouriño, mientras que Josefina Vázquez Mota se encargará de las relaciones políticas. Ambos son integrantes de su



equipo de campaña.

Anunció que próximamente emprenderá una gira de agradecimiento por todo el país, y manifestó su interés de entrevistarse con Antonio Villaraigosa, alcalde de Los Ángeles, ciudad de densa población mexicana.

Por su parte, López Obrador, el abanderado del PRD, presentó ayer dos nuevos videos en los que, en un caso, al parecer se abrió paquetería electoral de manera ilegal y, en el otro, presuntamente se intentó impe-

dir el conteo de los sufragios emitidos.

En uno, grabado en Comalcalco, Tabasco, se observaron imágenes en las que individuos ingresaron a la bodega donde están resguardadas las urnas con los votos y procedieron a destapar el material, en un acto que sólo se permite cuando hay impugnaciones y en presencia de los funcionarios de casilla.

"Esto es totalmente violatorio de la ley porque se rompen los

sellos de la bodega", recalzó el perredista, en conferencia, porque "se supone que para colocar estos sellos se necesita la presencia de los representantes de los partidos, con más razón cuando se violan los sellos, se requiere de la presencia de todos los representantes de los partidos".

El segundo video, filmado en Zacapoaxtla, estado de Puebla, muestra cómo, al momento del cómputo distrital y en una votación favorable al candidato del "sol azteca", se otorgaron presuntamente 200 votos de más para el PAN, al tiempo que de 92 votos nulos se descontaron supuestamente 13 al PAN, 5 al PRI, y 62 a la coalición Por el Bien de Todos, que integraron el PRD, el PT y Convergencia.

Comentó, viendo las imágenes, que "cuesta trabajo para que el representante del IFE (Instituto Federal Electoral), el presidente del Consejo Distrital de Zacapoaxtla, accedan a que se abra el paquete y se cuenten los votos".

Expresó López Obrador que la manipulación de los votos fue tanta, que inclusive una parte de los propios representantes de su alianza política en las casillas fue corrompida, mientras que otra se resistió a la tentación del dinero.

"Hubo mucho dinero de por medio, no quiero decir que fue el caso, pero tenemos elementos en donde llegaban a ofrecer dinero a nuestros representantes", admitió, sin dar nombres.

Un día antes, el propio contendiente perredista había exhibido dos videos que mostraban, en uno, relleno de una urna en

favor del PAN y, en otro, resistencia al cómputo. Una y otra originados en Guanajuato y en Querétaro. El propósito consistió en probar que en los comicios hubo suficientes anomalías como para no declarar a un ganador hasta que se cuenten los votos de uno en uno.

Sin embargo el IFE había asegurado que no hubo tal "embarazo" de ánforas, ya que las imágenes difundidas "han sido malinterpretadas, pues todos los representantes de los partidos políticos y coaliciones firmaron de conformidad el acta de escrutinio y cómputo, avanzando con ello la limpieza de la jornada."

Mediante un comunicado, el instituto explicó que entre ocho y 10 boletas de la elección de diputados, a la hora del escrutinio, se encontraron en la urna de la elección presidencial, por lo que el presidente de la casilla ordenó que se introdujeran a la urna que les correspondía. Sostuvo que de acuerdo al artículo 231 del Código Electoral, y en presencia del resto de los funcionarios y representantes de los partidos políticos y coaliciones, "el presidente de la casilla tomó las boletas ubicadas incorrectamente por algunos electores y las depositó en la urna de votos para diputados federales para ser contadas en su oportunidad".

En medio de esta polémica, y en contraste con su postura inicial, el PAN solicitó ante los tribunales electorales la anulación de votos en casillas de Tabasco, Distrito Federal, Estado de México, Veracruz, Oaxaca y Guerrero.

Un Rayito de Luz

por Sofia T. Martinez

Gracias Señor, por toda nuestra vida, siendo como tu en la intimidad cariñosa de familia: porque lo necesitamos y porque nos escuchas con amor, te pedimos por nuestro hogar y por nuestro mundo. Que sea un signo de amor, un reflejo de tu felicidad.

Que no exista entre nosotros la injuria, la ofensa, la injusticia, el rechazo y el abandono, porque tu nos haz llamado con tu amor, a una vivencia de comprensión, de respeto y de ayuda entre todos nosotros.

Que no haya amargura, soledad, rivalidad porque tu eres una bendición entre nosotros, eres abundancia de paz y ternura.

Que donde haya egoísmo, rencor y odio, tu nos ayudes a construir todo el perdón, en el servicio fraternal.

Que nuestras noches estén llenas del salario generoso de tu presencia, de tu espíritu, que nos haga sentir felices de haber trabajado y vivido juntos un día mas, compartiendo lo que tenemos.

Que cada amanecer nos llame a tu viña, para que padres e hijos seamos los trabajadores que construyen la ciudad con la fuerza de la unidad, de la generosidad, de la justicia y de la conciencia social.

Que el pan que tu nos das se multiplique en nuestras manos para bien de todos los necesitados.

Que nuestro amor de familia, los padres con nuestra entrega y nuestra experiencia, los hijos con su fuerza y generosidad siempre nuevas, seamos artífices de cielos nuevos y tierra nueva, una sociedad sin desigualdades, sin abandono social vivo para crecer todos compartiendo, alegrándonos juntos, siendo un solo corazón y una sola alma.

Gracias Señor Jesús.

Lo Que Significa la Eleccion Mexicana a los EE.UU.

Alex Meneses Miyashita

¿Cómo afectará el drama continuo de la elección presidencial en México a su vecino al norte? ¿Qué resultado servirá mejor al gobierno estadounidense y a su pueblo?

Un par de individuos con más de un interés superficial en nuestra relación con México - Dan Restrepo, asesor principal de políticas del Center for American Progress en Washington, D.C. y James Jones, anterior embajador estadounidense en México - compartieron conmigo sus opiniones personales en lo que se desenvolvía la historia.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, que salió segundo en la elección, presenta una queja formal contra los resultados del Instituto Federal de Elecciones (IFE) de México mediante un tribunal de elecciones, que debe re-

sponder antes del 6 de septiembre. El 6 de julio IFE declaró a Felipe Calderón, del titular Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), ganador por apenas 35,89 por ciento del voto, contra el 35,31 por ciento de López Obrador, del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD).

"Estamos en territorio virgen en lo que esto nunca ha ocurrido, y que las instituciones que México ha desarrollado para atender este tipo de problema nunca se han puesto a prueba, con lo cual ésta va a ser la primera prueba verdadera que van a pasar", predijo con precisión Restrepo.

Jones encomió a las instituciones electorales de México por haberse desempeñado bien.

"Mientras que el tribunal de elecciones considere con seriedad las quejas presentadas, vengan de López Obrador o de Calderón, me parece que en última instancia se aceptará su fallo", comentó.

Jones, quien sirviera de embajador de los EE.UU. en México de 1993 a 1997 bajo el mando del presidente Bill Clinton, indicó que bajo Calderón, las políticas de libre comercio que favoreció la administración del presidente Vicente Fox prevalecerían. Jones enfatizó que el enfoque de Calderón se dirigiría más a la política exterior que lo que haría el de López Obrador, de tendencia más de izquierdas.

Agregó Restrepo, "Claramente él es el candidato de la continuidad, y así se presentó en la campaña. Sin embargo, hay que preguntar -- ¿la continuidad de qué? La relación entre los Estados Unidos y México ha disfrutado de algunos muy buenos

momentos en los últimos seis años, pero al mismo tiempo ha pasado por unos momentos no tan buenos".

Los expertos concuerdan en que si López Obrador llegara a la presidencia de México, la relación de este país con los Estados Unidos sería más difícil de predecir. No obstante, no creen que aislaría al país de su vecino al norte a causa de sus perspectivas de tendencia izquierdista. Algunos de sus adversarios han comparado al candidato del PRD con el presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez.

"López Obrador no perjudicaría la relación entre los EE.UU. y México por lo que reconoce lo importante que es a la economía de México", explicó Jones. Sin embargo, "[López Obrador] sería mucho más independiente de los Estados Unidos que Calderón, y pondría la mayor parte de sus esfuerzos en la política doméstica" destacó.

El perfil personal de los candidatos en relación a los Estados Unidos es también muy diferente. Calderón se recibió con un título de Harvard. López Obrador, quien asistió a la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, sería el primer presidente mexicano en décadas que no hablaría inglés.

Hasta dos tercios de los 44 millones de hispanos de los Estados Unidos son de ascendencia mexicana, y los expatriados

mexicanos anualmente envían remesas de miles de millones de dólares a sus familias del otro lado de la frontera, según datos del Center for American Progress.

El Censo de los EE.UU. calcula que hay más de 20 millones de inmigrantes de origen mexicano en el país. El Centro Hispano Pew calcula que seis millones no cuentan con documentos legales.

Los analistas creen que ninguno de los dos candidatos tendría mucha influencia en el debate estadounidense sobre la reforma del sistema de inmigración.

"Me parece que el presidente Calderón será, de muchas maneras, sólo espectador de ese proceso, tanto como el presidente Fox lo ha sido", indicó Restrepo, añadiendo que a largo plazo, las migraciones a los Estados Unidos dependerán del éxito de políticas económicas sostenibles en México que creen más empleos, para que la gente se quede en el país.

"De nuevo, hay dos enfoques muy distintos en la mesa en términos de cómo lograr eso", dijo Restrepo. "Ambos enfoques han tenido un éxito mediocre en diferentes partes del mundo, entonces no es claro que un candidato o el otro tenga la clave a la solución del problema".

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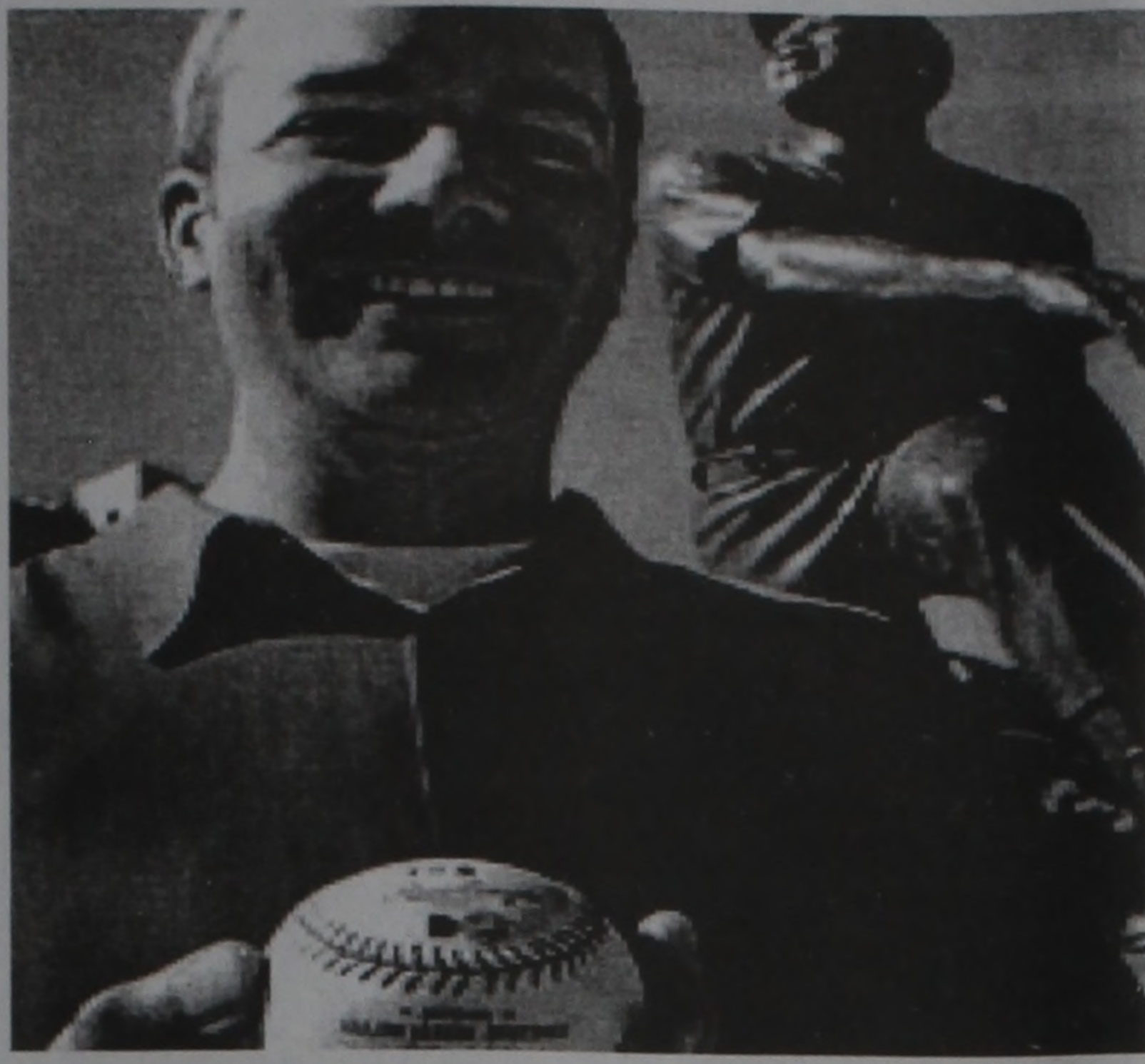
Bonds 715th home run ball to be sold

The fan who caught Barry Bonds' 715th home run ball while waiting for a beer and peanuts will sell the history-making ball on Internet auction site eBay.

Andrew Morbitzer said he and his wife, Megan, mulled keeping the ball, but decided they couldn't turn down a possible payoff. The ball might help the couple put a downpayment on a home in pricey San Francisco.

"We decided if we were rich we'd keep the ball because it's fun to have a piece of sports lore to hold on to," Morbitzer told the Associated Press on Tuesday. "But we're not rich."

Experts have said the ball is expected to fetch around \$100,000 at auction, far less than the \$500,000 some experts say it could have commanded absent the controversy surrounding Bonds and his alleged involvement with steroids.



The auction will start July 24 and last 10 days. Morbitzer is

mullying an opening bid of roughly \$10,000. The auction will also likely be a "reserve"

Viene de la pagina 4

señaló que incluso entre los latinos que reciben tratamiento, hay una probabilidad de entre el 60 y el 75% de que no vuelvan una segunda vez.

Directora del programa En Español de la NAMI en Nueva Jersey, Martha Silva, destacó que muchos programas para pacientes externos no "están pensados para las idiosincrasias de los latinos", pero añadió que los latinos deben adaptarse al tratamiento ofrecido a pesar de lo difícil que les resulta cuando sufren una enfermedad mental.

Hay otros problemas culturales: Acosta dijo que muchos niños latinos quieren llevar una "vida americana" pero sus bajos niveles socioeconómicos y logros académicos se lo impiden.

Los problemas particulares a los que se enfrentan los inmigrantes latinos en los Estados Unidos también influyen, pues una vez que la familia llega aquí, "la experiencia de inmigración en su totalidad puede ser tortuosa", añadió Acosta.

Los padres podrían tener dificultades ayudando a los niños de la segunda y tercera generación con tareas como los deberes y disfrutando del tiempo libre como una familia, señaló Silva. Estas son las generaciones que

auction, meaning Morbitzer won't part with the ball for less than a certain price.

"It was fun to have and it's fun to have been the one to catch the ball," Morbitzer said. "It was a great once-in-a-lifetime moment. But the decision is based on the fact that there's someone who would love to pay us for it."

San Jose-based e-Bay has handled auctions for other cherished pieces of baseball history. Among the items sold on the site include a 1909 Honus Wagner T206 card that fetched \$1.27 million and Shoeless Joe Jackson's "Black Betsey" bat, which sold for nearly \$580,000.

"We were absolutely thrilled to get the call from the Morbitz-

ers," said Jed Clevenger, a sports memorabilia manager with eBay. "It's a great marriage of coincidence and time and history."

Morbitzer said he decided to sell the ball online via eBay because of the chance to reach more potential bidders, including international baseball fans.

"It gives anyone a chance to participate in this auction and be a part of history," he said.

Morbitzer was waiting his turn to stock up on a couple of beers and peanuts on May 28 when Bonds hit the home run that moved him past Babe Ruth in the record books.

For several moments, Bonds' milestone ball appeared to be be-

yond anyone's reach. It sat lodged on an elevated platform in center field, then trickled off the roof.

Morbitzer caught the ball with one hand.

Morbitzer, a 38-year-old San Francisco marketing director, was quickly ushered away by security. He spent the next few days on a circuit of talk shows and sports programs.

Morbitzer said he and his wife were able to avoid detection by acting famous.

"We changed clothes and wore a hat and sun glasses," Morbitzer said. "It worked. The entire time, we had one person figure out who we were."

Young goes from 'Regular Joe' to superhero with one swing

Blessed with a Regular Joe name, moderate size and a quiet, measured personality, Michael Young doesn't stand out in a Kmart, let alone in a crowd of All-Stars.

Then he starts swinging a bat. Michael Young's reputation as a clutch hitter is now hoisted above all.

"I think he's one of the most underrated players in the American League," AL All-Star manager Ozzie Guillen said.

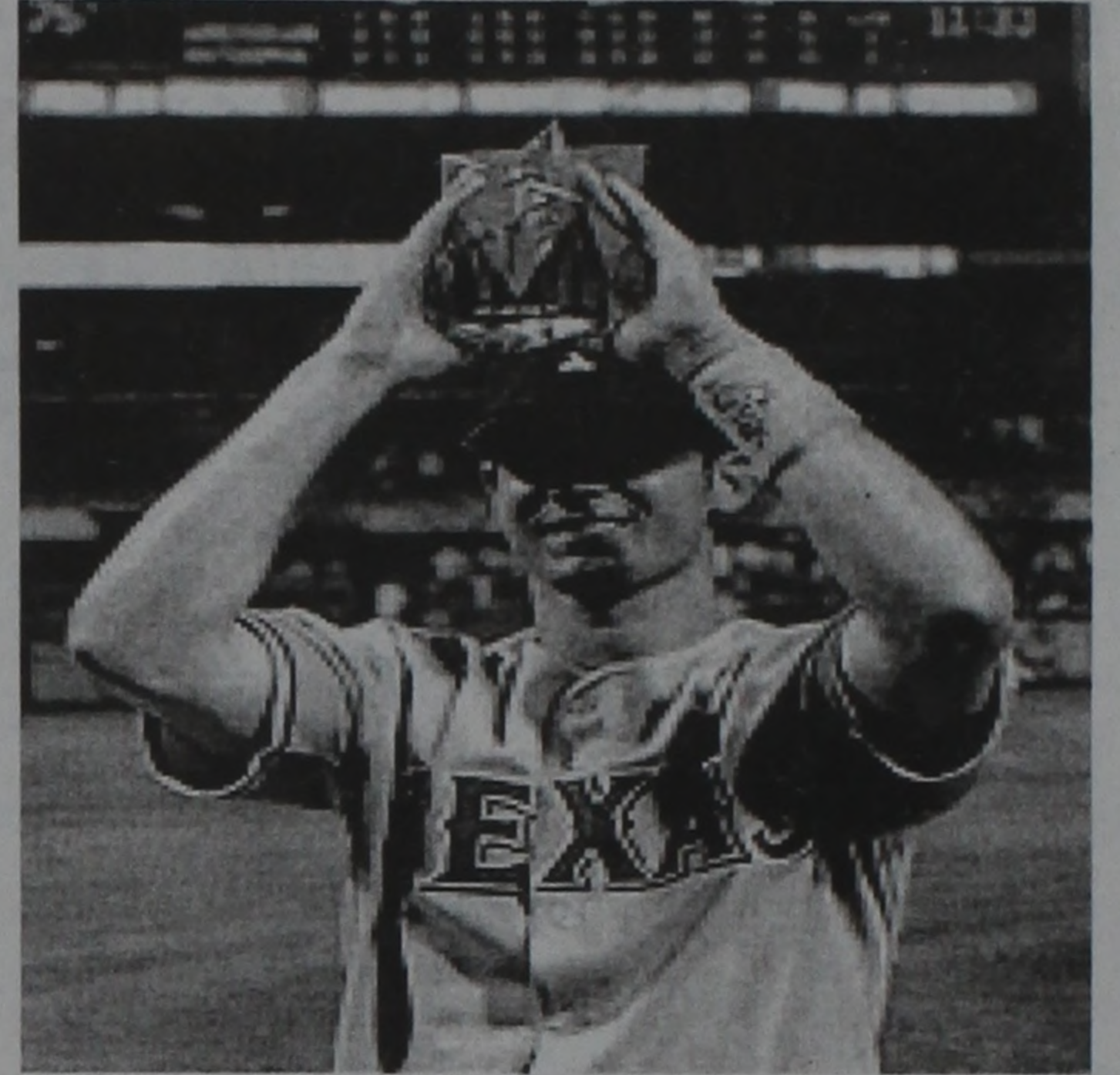
"One of the most underrated players in the game," Texas outfielder Gary Matthews Jr. said.

"It's no fun being Superman. Your life is a lie, there's nobody you can confide in..." said film critic Roger Ebert.

Wait! Ebert wasn't here! Who slipped in that line from his piece on the latest Superman

tienden a sufrir índices de depresión mucho más altos, dijo Aguilar-Gaxiola. La comunicación también puede verse deteriorada entre un padre que habla español y un hijo que habla inglés.

Como cultura, dijo Acosta, los latinos tienden a contar con la familia y la iglesia como ayuda porque están familiarizados con ellos, y en la comunidad también hay muchos estigmas que hacen que las familias no hablen sobre enfermedades mentales.



film? We'll get our technical people on it, pronto. 'Til then, please bear with us on the superlatives, because here's the deal with Young: If he were a movie poster, he'd be plastered with those breathless one-line reviews.

Instead, he'll just have to settle for winning an All-Star Game in perhaps the most dramatic fashion since Ted Williams in 1941.

And then explain exactly how it is that more folks can name Roger Clemens' hairspray than identify Young, period.

Not only did he smash a ninth-inning, two-out, two-

strike, two-run triple against San Diego closer Trevor Hoffman to pull the AL to a 3-2 party in the 77th All-Star Game, he spared Guillen the indignity of becoming the first skipper to lose to the NL All-Stars since 1996.

"I was turning to my coach and I said, 'Why me? Why do I have to lose this game?'" Guillen said.

Yes, not only did Young excuse Guillen from explaining that away for the next, oh, decade or so, he also made a prophet out of Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, who reported that he predicted Young's heroics early in the ninth inning.

One Million Mexican Unaware they Suffer Diabetes

Nearly one million Mexicans who suffer from diabetes in the country are not aware of this, which is quite risky due to all the health complications this may lead to. Many people find out they have the disease until they are admitted in a hospital.

Jose Luis Akaki Blancas, general secretariat of the Latin American Internist Society (Solami), stated that in six people die in Mexico every hour and that by 2025 there will be some 300 million diabetics.

Akaki Blancas said that the patients may have high life expectancy if they follow the treatment, which is based in diet, exercise, medicine, and a constant measure of their blood sugar level.

He highlighted that constant sugar level check ups help patients with diabetes to be more aware and have more control of their disease. This also helps them to immediately know if they suffer from this illness and in a very certain way the response the body has for diet, exercise, and the medicine that is

being used. Also, he said that if there is not any kind of diabetes control, severe consequences like kidney diseases, heart problems, sight lost and limb amputation, which also represents high prices for the patient and the State and may end up in death, result.

Rutila Castañeda Limones, head of the Heart-Metabolic Diseases Research Department in Bayer Mexico stated that it is very important to have control over diet and exercising for 30 minutes every day.

She recommends using a glucose measure device with a high level of precision and easy to use, since it is necessary for the diabetic person to check his sugar level in his blood. If the level is above normal it must be immediate action to avoid health complications.

Both experts stated that the diabetic patient must have one of these devices as part of their treatment, since it's a basic tool that gives him some independence, responsibility, and control of the disease evolution.

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Mexican Election

(Continued from front page)
The U.S. Census estimates there are more than 20 million immigrants of Mexican origin in the country. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that six million are undocumented.

Analysts do not think either of the candidates would have considerable clout in this country's debate over immigration reform.

"I think President Calderón is in a lot of ways going to end up a spectator to that process, in much the same way that President Fox has been," Restrepo said.

He added that in the long run, migration patterns to the United States will depend on the success of sustainable economic policies in Mexico that create more jobs for people to stay.

"Again, there are two very different approaches on the table in terms of how you would do that," Restrepo said. "Both approaches have met with mediocre successes in different parts of the world, so it's not clear that one candidate or the other holds the key to answer the question."

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Insisten en que la reforma debe ser amplia e integral

El senador demócrata por Colorado, Ken Salazar, aclaró ayer que sus colegas que apoyan la reforma migratoria no se oponen a formalizar los "tiempos" para implementar los contemplados planes de legalización y trabajadores temporales, si se hace en el marco de una reforma integral, pero sí se oponen a que se fijen "condiciones" para implementar esos componentes.

Salazar reaccionó así a preguntas sobre informes en el sentido de que la Casa Blanca vislumbraría considerar la reforma en fases si eso garantiza su avance.

Pero Salazar insistió en que la reforma tiene que ser amplia e integral. "Todo debe hacerse a la vez", reiteró.

En breve plática con La Opinión tras una rueda de prensa en el Capitolio, el senador dijo que es importante aclarar reportes de que la coalición bipartidista apoyaría fases condicionadas para garantizar la aprobación de la reforma. Es decir, iniciar con los rubros de seguridad y aplicación de leyes y si se cumplen determinadas condiciones, sólo entonces considerar la implementación de planes de trabajadores temporales y legalización ga-

nada.

"No me opongo a que se fijen tiempos (timelines) para la implementación de los rubros de legalización y trabajadores huéspedes)...Pero no deben imponerse condiciones", dijo. Agregó que "éso es precisamente lo que desea hacer el liderazgo republicano de la Cámara de Representantes".

Salazar se refirió a los intentos republicanos en la Cámara Baja por revivir enmiendas derrotadas en el Senado como, por ejemplo, una que establecería que los planes de legalización y trabajadores huéspedes no entrarían en vigor hasta que el Departamento de Seguridad Interna (DHS) garantizara el control total de la frontera.

Los senadores John McCain y Edward Kennedy, republicano por Arizona y demócrata por Massachusetts, respectivamente, Schumer, Hillary Clinton, también senadora por New York, y Robert Menéndez, senador por New Jersey, anunciaron que someterán enmiendas al presupuesto del DHS para garantizar la seguridad de fronteras, puertos de entrada y, sobre todo, de los sistemas de transporte masivo que son el punto más vulnerable a ataques. Ejemplo de esa vulnerabilidad fue evidente ayer en el atentado al sistema de trenes en Bombay, India, que dejó más de 140 muertos y centenares de heridos.

Los recién descubiertos planes de ataques contra túneles en New York y New Jersey evidencian

otros, del secretario de Comercio, Carlos Gutiérrez.

Salazar participó en una rueda de prensa sobre seguridad en la que el senador demócrata por New York, Chuck Schumer recordó que el asesor presidencial, Karl Rove, se pronunciaría ayer ante la convención anual del Consejo Nacional de la Raza (NCLR). "Karl Rove debería estar hablando con Jim Sensenbrenner" (congresista republicano por Wisconsin y autor del HR4437).

"¿Dónde está el Presidente?", preguntó Schumer sobre si George W. Bush se está alejando de su compromiso con la reforma integral para buscar un proyecto de ley (el plan migratorio de la Cámara Baja) "que nada racional hace por controlar la frontera y sólo propone muros y la criminalización de indocumentados".

En la rueda de prensa Salazar, Schumer, Hillary Clinton, también senadora por New York, y Robert Menéndez, senador por New Jersey, anunciaron que someterán enmiendas al presupuesto del DHS para garantizar la seguridad de fronteras, puertos de entrada y, sobre todo, de los sistemas de transporte masivo que son el punto más vulnerable a ataques. Ejemplo de esa vulnerabilidad fue evidente ayer en el atentado al sistema de trenes en Bombay, India, que dejó más de 140 muertos y centenares de heridos.

Los recién descubiertos planes de ataques contra túneles en New York y New Jersey evidencian

que los sistemas de transporte siguen siendo el blanco preferido de terroristas.

Schumer declaró que por los pasados cinco años la administración de George W. Bush ha estado dormida y "espero que no tome otro ataque [terrorista] para levantarlos de la cama". Según los senadores, la administración Bush habla mucho y hace poco porque apoya iniciativas para mejorar la seguridad y luego no ofrece los recursos para implementarlas. La senadora Clinton dijo, por su parte, que New York y Washington D.C. siguen siendo los principales objetivos de grupos terroristas, pero a pesar de eso y de los siniestros del 9-11 "las reducciones de impuestos para los más ricos son más importantes que todo lo demás, incluyendo la seguridad nacional". Agregó que ni siquiera se han implementado las recomendaciones de la comisión del 9-11 y los sistemas de transporte masivo en las grandes urbes como New York siguen desprotegidos sin suficiente personal humano, sin perros que detecten bombas o tecnología para detectar agentes químicos o biológicos. Un reportero le preguntó a Clinton, una de las potenciales aspirantes a la nominación presidencial demócrata en 2008, si estaba diciendo que Bush es un hipócrita porque habla de seguridad pero en el Congreso su partido no asigna los fondos necesarios. "Los hechos hablan por sí solos", dijo la senadora.

Hope you are enjoying your summer! Have A Nice Day!

The World We Live In

(Continued from Fron)
David Sirota

David Sirota is the author of: Hostile Takeover: How Big Money and Corruption Conquered Our Government—and How We Take It Back

A Tale of Two Cities

Following in the footsteps of Hazleton, Pennsylvania mayor, Lou Barletta, The New York Times reported that Avon Park, Florida mayor Tom Macklin has introduced legislation that would deny business permits to companies that knowingly hire illegal immigrants. The ordinance states that, "illegal immigration destroys our neighborhoods and diminishes our overall quality of life: it would also make English the official language in the city and remove Spanish from all city documents signs and automated phone messages.

The city's nickname is the "city of charm".

Too Much Colorado Cool Aid
The Washington Post is reporting that the Colorado State legislature, who's both chambers are controlled by Democrats, approved a measure this week which would deny unemployment checks to illegal immigrants, grants to pay energy bills, deny the issuance of professional or business licenses, and some public medical care. If an undocumented resident dared to file a claim, they would be charged and faced with a fine.

On the other side of the illegal immigration coin, the employer side, employers would have to certify that "each new hire is a legal resident. But under pressure from the business lobby, the wording in the legislation was "softened" so employers can be

sanctioned only if they show a "reckless disregard" about an employee's background.

Perhaps it is the state legislature that should be sanctioned for showing a "reckless disregard" for common sense.

Economy — Bush Celebrates the Fourth Largest Deficit in History

Yesterday, the Office of Management Budget projected a \$296 billion federal deficit for fiscal year 2006. President Bush held a press conference arguing that this announcement is a vindication of his economic policies: "The projected budget deficit over — of over \$420 billion is now assumed to be \$296 billion. See, what happens is when you grow the economy by cutting taxes, more tax revenues come into the Treasury, and that's what we're seeing here." But in reality, the projected 2006 deficit would be the fourth largest in American history. In fact, the top four largest deficits have all been under Bush's tenure; the highest was \$413 billion in 2004. When Bush came into office, he inherited a surplus of \$284 billion. At that time, the administration predicted a \$516 billion surplus for 2006. The fact that Bush now considers a \$296 billion deficit an occasion to celebrate, shows how far we've fallen.

Source: The Progress Report Rape Accusations Make a Bad Problem Worse

"In the past month, new cases in Iraq have led to charges against 12 American servicemen who may face the death penalty in connection with the killing of Iraqi civilians." Military officials are warning that "the total of American servicemen charged with capital crimes in the new cases could grow substantially." In the most recent

case, Pfc. Steven Green was charged with raping and killing a 14-year old Iraqi girl and three members of her family and then burning down the house, according to FBI and military investigators. Four other soldiers from the Army's 101st Airborne Division have been accused of participating in the rape and murders. A fifth soldier was charged with dereliction of duty for failing to report the crimes. The incident, which is different from the recent atrocities against unarmed Iraqis in Haditha and "deserves a category all to itself," has brought outrage from all corners of Iraq. Iraqi Justice Minister Hashim Abdul-Rahman al-Shebli said, "The ugliness of this crime demands a swift intervention of the U.N. Security Council to stop these violations of human rights and to condemn them so that they will not happen again." Maliki responded by suggesting "the immunity given to members of coalition forces encouraged them to commit such crimes in cold blood. That makes it necessary to review it." That demand "could widen a rift between U.S. and Iraqi authorities." The top U.S. commander in Iraq and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq apologized for the incident and explained that damage was done "to the Iraqi people as a whole." Bush pledged that "absolute justice" would be delivered against the soldiers who committed the crimes. The allegations have unfortunately given insurgents an excuse for their murderous violence. An insurgent group linked to al Qaeda recently released a video showing the mutilation of two U.S. soldiers, "asserting that the soldiers were killed in retaliation" for the rape and murders.

Source: The Progress Report
Email: leditor@sbcglobal.net

American State Bank Hosts Summer Cookout

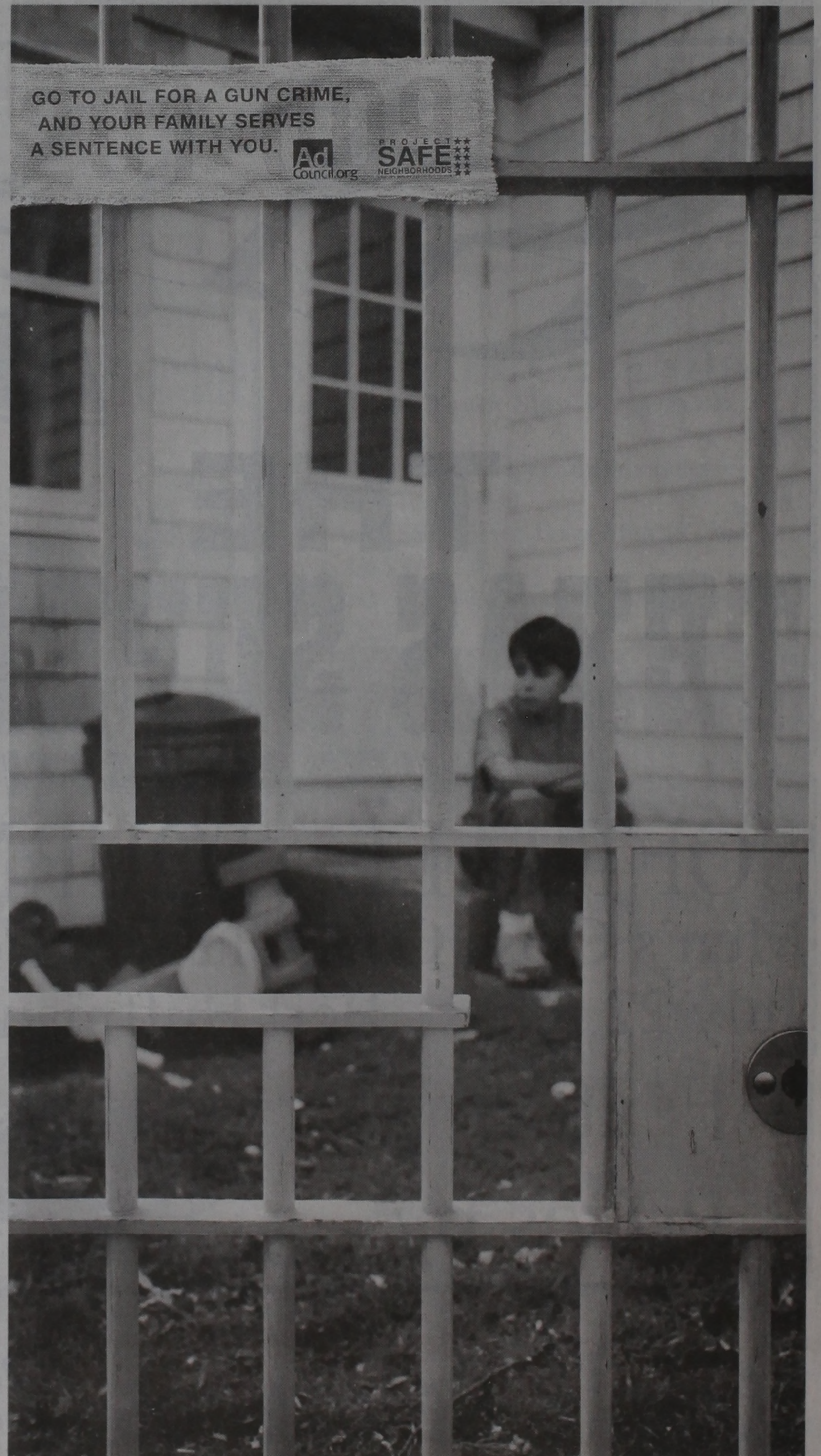
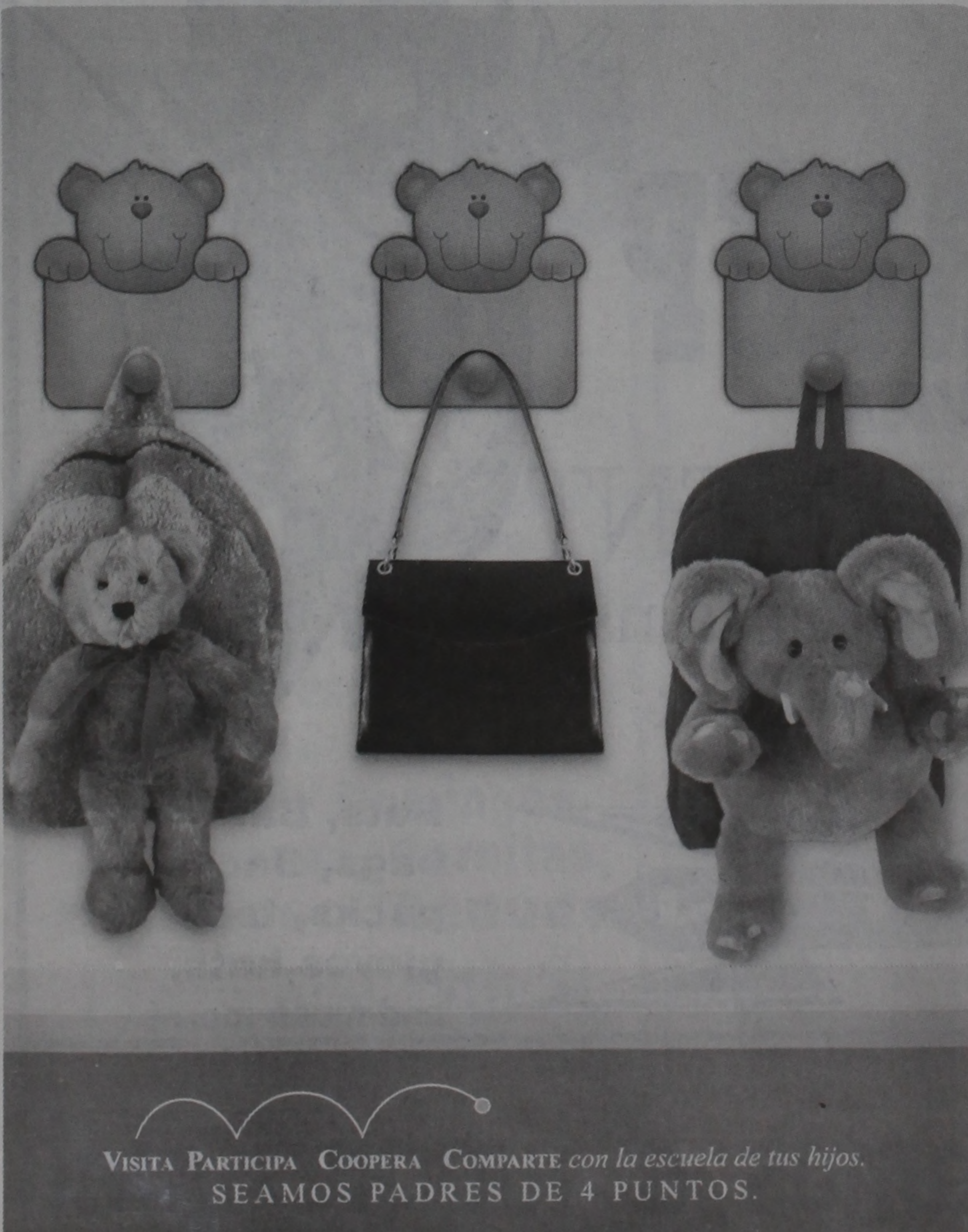
American State Bank (ASB) will host a Cookout Event complete with plenty of great food, entertainment and much more on Thursday, July 20 at the newest Odessa branch on Kermit Highway and on Friday, July 21 at the North University Branch (108 University Avenue) in Lubbock, Texas. Both events will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

From now until July 20 and 21, all members of the Odessa and Lubbock communities are eligible to sign-up and win a new BBQ grill by visiting ASB's Kermit Highway branch in Odessa and Lubbock's North University branch. The BBQ Grill grand prize winner will be selected during the Cookout.

The Cookout is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call 432-333-3400 (Odessa) or 806-767-7240 (Lubbock).



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